

led in the U.K. to increasing numbers of unwanted pregnancies with their toll of abortion and illegitimate babies and, in some countries, to serious overpopulation.

Susser and Watson's book deals with many of these problems and contrasts the health experiences of peasant and industrial populations and in different social classes.

The second edition has been enlarged by about one third due to the addition of material from the American experience of the authors and by the addition of many informative tables and diagrams.

The chapters on population, culture and health, social class and social mobility and health (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6) will be of most interest and relevance to the medical undergraduates, but medical students and doctors alike who wish to acquire the basic knowledge in this new and developing field will find the whole book of interest. It appears to be becoming the standard work in medical sociology. J.P.

EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS OF THE STUDENT by Graham B. Blaine Jr. and Charles C. McArthur. Second Edition. (Pp. xi+388; £3.00). London Butterworths, 1971.

WHY does a college need a psychiatrist? This book attempts to answer that question. It consists of a collection of articles by different authors, most of whom work in the Harvard University Health Service as psychiatrists, psychologists or counsellors.

At first the reader, with the editor, may wonder if the Harvard experience can be applied outside the U.S.A. However, anyone working with students anywhere will immediately recognise the various problems discussed, and find the case reports strikingly familiar.

The first nine chapters cover general problems including apathy, suicide and drug abuse. They are easy to read, informative and offer practical suggestions for therapy. The next five are of special interest as they discuss difficulties relating to studying. For example chapter 12 gives amusing but pertinent advice on note-taking and passing examinations. The last four chapters concern the special problems of women students, graduate students, business school students and medical students.

There is a lack of knowledge about the problems of the post-adolescent in general and of students in particular. This book presents the common syndromes clearly and recognisably. The final chapter on therapy is particularly helpful; it discusses the various forms of therapy available and also gives a straight-forward account of how short-term psychotherapy is actually conducted. This could readily be understood and utilised by therapists other than psychiatrists.

Anyone working with college students will find this book interesting and its general discussions deserve a wider audience. R.E.S.J.

PHARMACOLOGY FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS by J. P. D. Graham, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.F.P.S., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E. Second Edition. (Paper £1.80; Boards £2.80) London: Oxford University Press, 1971.

I find this a useful book for quick reference, it contains a wealth of information, has a good index and the facts are concisely stated. The new edition is in the same paperback format as the old and the text is laid out in two columns with a large number of text tables and diagrams. The new edition is 30 pages longer, has two extra pages of black and white photographs and is double the price of the 1966 edition. I am not sure that it is the ideal textbook for medical students for a number of reasons. It is not easy to read because of the highly compressed almost telegraphic style of writing. This makes it more suitable for revision than for primary study. It is too big (21 x 27 cm) to carry in the pocket for reference while working on the wards and its comments on treatment are often misleading.

"Treatment. Acidemia may be treated by reducing the production of excess acid in diabetes by administration of insulin and dextrose; by promoting the excretion of fixed acids by giving excess of fluids and a diuretic; by neutralizing acidity by intravenous infusion of solutions of bicarbonate or lactate, or by increasing the excretion of carbon dioxide by stimulating breathing."